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Fisheries of Tanzania, 1972

Norman L. Pease

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FISHERIES OF TANZANIA, 1972

Norman L. Pease

ABSTRACT

Tanzania's fisheries are still primarily artisanal. Its large freshwater lakes yielded over 80 percent of the country's production. In the last several years annual freshwater production has declined and marine production has increased.

The Government has been nationalizing major industries and is now organizing a national fishing corporation, which will be responsible for all phases of the fishing industry. The transition to a modern industrial marine fishing nation will take many years to accomplish.

INTRODUCTION

The United Republic of Tanzania comprises what was called Tanganyika on the African mainland and the island of Zanzibar, 20 to 25 miles off the northern coast, plus the smaller islands of Pemba and Mafia. Mainland Tanzania has an area of 361,800 square miles, nearly as large as Texas and New Mexico combined. Of this total area, more than 20,000 square miles consist of inland water, including nearly half of Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika. The country is bordered on the north by Kenya, Lake Victoria, and Uganda; on the west by Ruanda, Burundi, and Zaire; on the south by Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique; and on the east by the Indian Ocean.

Tanzania has about 500 miles of coastline; its Continental Shelf varies from 0 to 60 miles around the offshore islands. On September 7, 1973, Tanzania extended its territorial waters to 50 nautical miles measured from baselines along the coast and adjacent islands.

Norman L. Pease is the Regional Fisheries Attache, Embassy of the United States of America, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

FISHERIES PRODUCTION

Freshwater:

Tanzania's freshwater fisheries are artisanal and produced 135,447 metric tons (t) of fish (82 percent of the total catch) in 1972, compared with 159,547 t in 1971. Freshwater production has decreased since 1970 when 166,909 t of freshwater fish were produced. Some of the decrease has been attributed to an extended drought which has lowered the water level in Tanzania's lakes. Table 1 provides catch statistics on the nation's inland fisheries catch.

Three lakes--Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyasa--account for 81 percent of Tanzania's total catch; 1 percent is taken in other lakes or rivers and the rest comes from the ocean. The average annual production per canoe was 12 t in Lake Victoria and 9.5 t in Lakes Tanganyika and Nyasa. Gear includes gill nets, handlines, scoop nets, seines, and traps. Species of fish caught include: Tilapia spp., Haplochromis spp., Clarias spp., Bagrus sp., and Engraulicypris sp. These fish were caught by fishermen using 14,878 sailboats and 240 powered craft---231 canoes with outboard motors and 9 vessels with inboard engines--for a total of 15,118 vessels. Table 2 provides statistics on Tanzania's inland fleet.

Marine:

Tanzania's marine fisheries produced 28,679 t of fish in 1972, which was a 6,776 t (31 percent) increase over the 1971 catch. Most of this increase came from the southern coastal area and was due to increased fishing efforts. Average annual productivity per canoe was 9.2 t in 1972.

Tanzania's marine fisheries employ a total of 3,228 vessels of which only 115 are powered. Table 2 provides additional information on Tanzania's marine fishing fleet. The fishing gear used and its share of the total 1972 catch were as follows: basket traps (38 percent), handlines (25 percent), gill nets (20 percent), shark nets (10 percent), seines (2 percent), and fixed traps and cast nets (3 percent).

The most abundant fish landed is snapper (Lethrinus spp). These snappers are caught by traps, handlines, and gill nets. The average selling price by the fishermen was US$0.34 per kilogram in 1972. The next most abundant species are sharks, which accounted for 8 percent of the catch. They are caught with shark nets, handlines, and longlines and average $0.30/kg at the landing site. Wrasses and parrotfish also accounted for 8 percent of the catch. These fish are caught with traps and seines and sold for $0.24 per kg. Rays represented 6 percent of the marine catch and were caught by shark nets, handlines, and longlines. These rays sold for $0.25/kg. Kingfish accounts for 5 percent of the total catch and is also caught by shark nets and handlines. Kingfish is one of the preferred species, and sells for around $0.45/kg in Tanzania. Carangids were 4 percent of the catch and averaged $0.34/kg in 1972. The rest of the catch

Table 1.--Tanzania's fisheries catch, 1968-72

Species	1968		1969		1970		1971		1972	
	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000
Freshwater:										
Fish.....	120,079	9,115.0	121,650	8,730.4	166,909	10,990.7	159,547	14,121.1	135,447	15,310.8
Total.....	120,079	9,115.0	121,650	8,730.4	166,909	10,990.7	159,547	14,121.1	135,447	15,310.8
Marine:										
Fish.....	20,900	4,180.0	15,374	3,307.5	17,492	3,329.7	20,904	4,209.7	27,564	6,113.0
Shrimp.....	507	539.5	597	571.0	585	272.6	391	279.3	330	216.0
Sea shells....	533	157.7	769	173.4	478	71.4	27	265.0	696	30.7
Beche de mer..	35	17.8	43	26.3	277	19.8	101	61.4	49	51.0
Seaweeds.....	52	17.4	205	29.4	252	21.8	480	12.7	40	11.5
Total.....	22,027	4,912.3	16,988	4,107.7	19,084	3,715.3	21,903	4,828.1	28,679	6,422.2
Total catch.....	142,106	14,027.3	138,638	12,838.1	185,993	14,706.0	181,450	18,949.2	164,127	21,733.0

Note: Catch statistics for Beche de mer and seaweeds are given in dry weight except for 1970 when wet weights were provided. Figures may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 2.--Tanzania's fishing fleet, 1968-72

Craft	1968		1969		1970		1971		1972	
	Inland	Marine	Inland	Marine	Inland	Marine	Inland	Marine	Inland	Marine
	Number of vessels									
Unpowered:										
Sailboats.....	9,031	1,694	13,198	1,960	15,531	2,639	15,263	2,422	14,878	3,113
Total.....	9,031	1,694	13,198	1,960	15,531	2,639	15,263	2,422	14,878	3,113
Powered:										
Outboard.....	310	48	329	51	340	56	107	141	231	103
Inboard.....	5	8	6	9	8	8	8	10	9	12
Total.....	315	56	335	60	348	64	115	151	240	115
Total fleet.....	9,346	1,750	13,533	2,020	15,879	2,703	15,378	2,573	15,118	3,228

Note: The designation outboard motors is used for canoes equipped with outboard motors.

consisted of mixed amounts of bonito, sardines, and catfish.

Shrimp production in Tanzania decreased to 330 t in 1972, which is about 100 to 200 t below production levels attained in previous years. This decrease was due to the withdrawal of a Japanese company with five shrimp trawlers which stopped fishing in October 1972. Reportedly they produced 39 percent of the total shrimp catch, or 129 t, in 1972. No reason has been given for their departure from local waters.

FISHERIES TRADE

Tanzania has generally exported more fishery products than it has imported, but imports exceeded exports in 1972. Tanzania's fishery exports--mainly salted, dried, or smoked fish--have dropped sharply in the past few years: 6,471 t in 1970, 4,141 t in 1971, and 2,647 t in 1972. Fishery imports have remained generally unchanged at around 2,400 t. In 1972, because of the rapid drop in exports, the nation imported more fish in terms of quantity than it exported. Exports, however, were worth $400,000 more than total imports. Tables 3 and 4 provide statistical data on Tanzania's fishery trade for the period 1970-72.

Salted, dried, or smoked fishery products are important commodities in Tanzania's total trade; both are imported and exported in large quantities. Crustaceans (mainly shrimp) and mollusks are other important export commodities. Beche de mer is an important species which is dried and exported to Hong Kong. In 1972 Denmark imported Tanzania's entire seaweed crop. There is a worldwide market for Tanzania's sea shells.

FISHERIES TRAINING

Tanzania has two fisheries training schools. The Kunduchi Fisheries Institute offers a 2-year course (much of it at the college level) as well as shorter and more practical courses, such as net making and repair, commercial fishing techniques, and vessel operation. The 2-year course is designed to improve the capabilities of Fisheries Officers. The graduates, who number about 20 per year, are employed by the Fisheries Division in fisheries extension work. A new dormitory, dining hall, kitchen, marine workshop, and a teaching facility have been recently completed with the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands.

The other training school is the Coastal Fisheries Development Center at Mbegani. This facility helps train fishermen and Assistant Field Officers of the Fisheries Service in marine fisheries. About 40 students are currently enrolled in this program.

Table 3.--Tanzania's fishery imports, by quantity and value, 1970-72

Product imports	1970		1971		1972	
	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000
Fish:						
Fresh or frozen.....	8.0	8.8	11.3	10.6	1.9	3.0
Salted, dried, or smoked.....	1,610.6	294.3	2,219.4	604.0	1,679.2	619.4
Canned.....	480.6	248.2	237.2	111.5	178.8	80.2
Total.....	2,099.2	551.3	2,467.9	726.1	1,859.9	702.6
Crustaceans & mollusks:						
Fresh, frozen, salted, or dried.....	-	-	2.7	1.7	1.0	3.0
Canned.....	1.6	2.0	4.6	4.0	-	-
Total.....	1.6	2.0	7.3	5.7	1.0	3.0
Other:						
Fish oil.....	21.2	7.9	14.6	7.4	837.3	320.2
Total imports.....	2,122.0	561.2	2,489.8	739.2	2,698.2	1,025.8

Table 4.--Tanzania's fishery exports, by quantity and value, 1970-72

Product exports	1970		1971		1972	
	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000	Metric t	US$1,000
Fish:						
Fresh or frozen.....	16.8	15.7	47.0	72.7	20.7	30.8
Salted, dried, or smoked.....	5,642.8	1,780.4	3,227.6	1,230.9	1,894.8	644.6
Total.....	5,659.6	1,796.1	3,274.6	1,303.6	1,915.5	675.4
Crustaceans & mollusks:						
Fresh, frozen, salted, or dried.....	230.5	474.6	213.7	476.0	157.6	455.5
Total.....	230.5	474.6	213.7	476.0	157.6	455.5
Other:						
Beche de mer.....	92.3	83.7	101.4	61.4	49.4	51.0
Seaweed.....	63.0	21.9	71.7	26.0	39.8	11.5
Sea shells.....	426.5	168.6	479.6	264.3	385.2	259.5
Total.....	581.8	274.2	652.7	351.7	574.4	322.0
Total exports.....	6,471.9	2,544.9	4,141.0	2,131.3	2,647.5	1,452.9

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Tanzania is pursuing a national policy of socialism. During the past several years important segments of the economy (banking, insurance, etc.) have been nationalized. A Government corporation called the National Cold Chain Operation (NCCO) came into existence in January 1974. It is responsible for the buying, distribution, and selling of all perishable foods, including fish. Nearly $7 million have been spent on a chain of cold storage facilities throughout the interior and on a fleet of refrigerated trucks to service these facilities. NCCO is now using the 500-ton cold storage plant that was once owned by the African Trading Company, which had operated this facility for years. The Netherlands Government will help operate NCCO for 5 years.

Another Government organization, the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO), was formed on March 1, 1974. Its function is the management of all aspects of commercial fishing including the catching, processing, and marketing of fishery products, the construction of fishing vessels, the manufacturing of fishing gear, and the licensing of fishermen. There is a 1,500-ton cold storage facility being built for TAFICO near the Dar-es-Salaam port complex. Appendix I provides the reader with a copy of the Government Notice No. 58, which established the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation.

Despite the nationalization program the Government of Tanzania has indicated a willingness to form joint venture fishing operations with foreign investors, provided that the ventures benefit Tanzania and provided that the operation be beyond the existing capabilities of the Government.

Supplement No. 11 **1st March, 1974**

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

to the Gazette of the United Republic of Tanzania, No. 9, Vol. LV, dated 1st March, 1974

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GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 58 published on 1/3/74

THE PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ACT, 1969

(No. 17 OF 1969)

ORDER

Made under sections 3, 5 and 11

THE TANZANIA FISHERIES CORPORATION (ESTABLISHMENT) ORDER, 1974

1. This Order may be cited as the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (Establishment) Order, 1974. Title

2. In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation

"the Act" means the Public Corporations Act, 1969;

"aquatic flora" means all aquatic plants and other members of the aquatic vegetable kingdom and includes corals, sponges, sea weeds and water weeds;

"Board" means the Board of Directors provided for in paragraph 5;

"the Corporation" means the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation established by paragraph 3;

"fish" means all forms of aquatic or amphibious life (ncluding turtles, crabs and shell fish) and includes the spat, brood, fry, spawn, ova and young of all such fish, but does not include any aquatic or amphibious animal to which the provisions of the Fauna Conservation Ordinance apply or the young of any such animal; Cap. 302

"fish product" means anything made, collected or obtained from fish and includes fish meal, dried fish, fish manure, offal, fish silage, canned fish, oil of any fish, pearl, mother-of-pearl, shell, beche de mer, ambergris, larva and sponge;

"fishing industry" means includes the collection, capture or gathering of fish, fish product or aquatic flora, the manufacture of fish products, the processing of fish products or aquatic flora and the manufacturing of fish products and products of aquatic flora;

"Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for natural resources.

G.N. No. 58 (contd.)

Establishment of Corporation

3. There is hereby established a public corporation to be known as the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation.

Functions of Corporation

4.—(1) The functions of the Corporation shall be—

(a) to promote the development of the fishing industry;

(b) to buy, sell, prepare for market, import, export, all types, of fish, fish products, aquatic flora and products of aquatic flora;

(c) to participate in, sponsor and encourage the establishment of national and international ventures with the object of improving the fishing industry and the marketing of fish, fish products, aquatic flora and products of aquatic flora;

(d) to participate in, sponsor and encourage the establishment of industries necessary for or expendient to the development of the fishing industry including the manufacture of fishing boats and fishing nets;

(e) to participate in or undertake, on a commercial basis, any enterprise related to or connected with the fishing industry;

(f) to carry out, promote or sponsor research in any aspect of the fishing industry and the marketing of fish, fish products and aquatic flora;

(g) to manage the affairs of any corporation, company, firm or other body, the interests of which are transferred to or acquired by the Corporation under the provisions of the Act or otherwise;

(h) to carry on its business operations and activities either within the United Republic or elsewhere, whether as principal, agent, contractor or otherwise, and either alone or in conjunction with any other person, firm or body corporate;

(i) to promote the interest and participation of local authorities and co-operative societies in fishing industry;

(j) to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to uphold and support the credit of the Corporation and to attain and justify public confidence, and to avert or minimize any loss to the Corporation;

(k) to do any act or thing or enter into any transaction which, in the opinion of the Board, is calculated to facilitate the proper and efficient carrying on of its activities and the proper performance of its functions as specified in this paragraph.

(2) The Corporation may perform its functions, either itself or through any contractor or contractors employed by the Corporation on such terms and conditions as the Board may approve.

Authorized capital

5.—(1) The authorized nominal capital of the Corporation shall be twenty million shillings divided into twenty thousand shares having a par value of one thousand shillings each.

(2) The initial paid up capital of the Corporation shall be of such amount as the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister for Finance determine and such determination shall be publishd in the *Gazette*.

(3) No person other than the United Republic shall be entitled to hold any share in the Corporation.

(4) Payment for any further share or shares issued by the Corporation and alloted to the United Republic shall be made in such a manner as the Minister, after consultation with the Board and the Minister for Finance may determine.

Management

6.—(1) The management of the Corporation is hereby vested in a Board of Directors.

(2) The Board shall consist of—

(a) a chairman who shall be appointed by the President;

(b) such other members being not less than five nor more than nine as the Minister may appoint, one of whom he shall nominate as its Vice-Chairman.

(3) The President may appoint a general manager of the Corporation.

(4) The Board may from time to time appoint on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit such officers and servants of the Corporation as may be necessary for conducting the business of the Corporation.

(5) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be entitled to such allowances and at such rates as the Minister may from time to time prescribe.

(6) The Minister may make regulations with respect to—

(a) the appointment of and the tenure and vacation of office by the members of the Board;

(b) the quorum, proceedings and meetings of the Board and determinations of the Board.

(7) Subject to the provisions of any regulation made under sub-paragraph (6) the Board shall have power to regulate their own procedure.

Salaries, etc. to be paid out of Corporation's funds

7. All salaries, fees and other allowances whatsoever payable to the Chairman, a member of the Board, the general manager and othe officers and servants of the Corporation, shall be paid out of the funds of the Corporation.

Seal of Corporation

8.—(1) The seal of the Corporation shall be affixed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the General Manager and Witnessed by one other member of the Board.

(2) All contracts, guarantees, agreements, bonds, authorities, mortgages, charges, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bank drafts, letters of credit, securities and other instruments whatsoever to which the Corporation is a party, shall be executed on behalf of the Corporation—

(a) by the general manager and a member of the Board; or

(b) by such other person or persons as may be authorized by the Board in that behalf:

Provided that the general manager may, in writing, delegate his function under this sub-paragraph to any officer of the Corporation.

G.N. No. 58 (contd.)

Board may act notwithstanding vacancy

9. Subject to the provisions of any regulations relating to quorum made under sub-paragraph (6) of paragraph 6, the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership thereof and not act or proceeding of the Board shall be invalid by reason only of some defect in the appointment of a member or a person who purports to be a member or, where such regulations provide for the appointment of an alternate member, in the appointment of such alternate member or a person who purports to be such alternate member.

Borrowing powers of Corporation

10. The Corporation may from time to time borrow such sums of money as it may require to meet any of its obligations or for the purposes of its business.

Delegation of powers

11.—(1) The powers conferred on the President by section 6 of the Act are, in relation to the Board, hereby delegated to the Minister.

(2) The Minister is hereby designated as the Minister for the purposes of the provisions of subsection (3) of section 7 of the Act which relates to the accounts of the Corporation.

L. S.

Dar es Salaam,
14th February, 1974

JULIUS K. NYERERE,
President